SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year — October 22, 1973

No 219

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureau in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

Fight back at Saigon peace-breakers

The Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces issued on October 15 the following order:

US imperialism, defeated in its war of aggression in Viet Nam, has been forced to sign the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam.

Yet, the United States does not want yet to give up the design to impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam; and the Saigon administration, encouraged and supported by it, is acting in opposition to our people's desire for peace, independence, democracy and national concord.

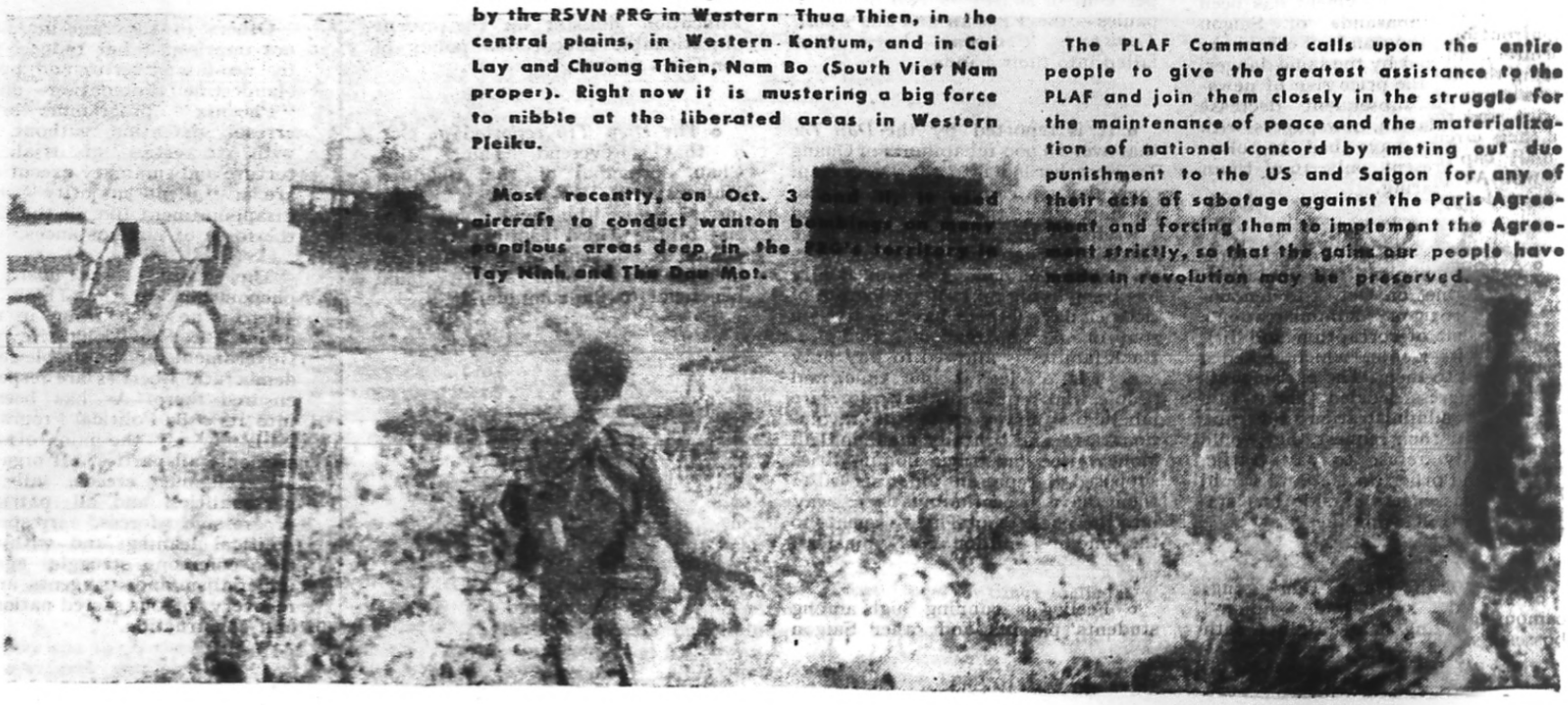
US imperialism and the Saigon administration have never seriously implemented the Agreement all through the past eight months. They have violated and sabotaged the most vital provisions of the Agreement all-sidedly and in a systematic and utterly serious manner.

The Saigon administration has never observed the ceasefire; it just goes on with war acts against our people.

It has frantically conducted a "special pacification programme" by subjecting our compatriots, in the towns and the countryside alike, to arrests, terror and very savage massacres.

It has been nibbling at many areas controlled by the RSVN PRG in Western Thua Thien, in the central plains, in Western Kontum, and in Cai Lay and Chuong Thien, Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper). Right now it is mustering a big force to nibble at the liberated areas in Western Pleiku.

Most recently, on Oct. 3 [illegible] aircraft to conduct wanton b[illegible] populous areas deep in the [illegible]'s territory in Tay Ninh and Thu Dau Mot.



This is a very grave step taken to further the general scheme of sabotage hatched by the US and the Saigon administration against the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

The US and the Saigon administration are held completely responsible for these war acts, and must bear all the serious consequences of their own deeds.

The Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces now orders all officers and men of the main forces army, the regional army, the militia, and all guerilla, homeguard and security forces across South Viet Nam to

1. sharpen their vigilance and counter in a fitting manner all war acts of the Saigon administration in order to defend the liberated zone and the lives and property of its population and preserve the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam; and

2. fight back at the Saigon administration, as long as it has not discontinued its war acts, any place and with appropriate forms and force, thus compelling the other side to implement the Paris Agreement seriously and scrupulously and to put a complete stop to all its acts of war and sabotage.

The PLAF Command calls upon the entire people to give the greatest assistance to the PLAF and join them closely in the struggle for the maintenance of peace and the materialization of national concord by meting out due punishment to the US and Saigon for any of their acts of sabotage against the Paris Agreement and forcing them to implement the Agreement strictly, so that the gains our people have made in revolution may be preserved.

Land-grabbers punished

Cont Copy

NOT responsive to the good will of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam and instead of imitating their scrupulous implementation of the Paris Agreement and the June 13 Joint Communiqué, their self-restraint, and heir complete devotion to national concord and reconciliation, the Saigon administration obdurately persists in its bellicosity by making its army commit many more crimes against the people and seize many areas legally controlled by the PRG. Alongside a propaganda campaign to distort the just attitude of the PRG, the Saigon administration, with US assistance and encouragement, conducted hundreds of operations against PRG-held areas in Western High Plateaux, the central part of Central Viet Nam, Central Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper) Western and Eastern Nam Bo, and the provinces of Tay Ninh, My Tho, Kien Tuong, Thua Thien and Quang Tri, in the last days of September and early in October.

Determined to defend the lives and property of the people and the liberated zone, the PLAF meted out due punishment to the intruders, the peace-wreckers. In the High Plateaux from Sept. 20 to Oct. 3, they countered with great success a huge Saigon force comprising 12 infantry battalions, 3 armour battalions and 4 artillery battalions, which were simultaneously launching more than 40 operations, with the support of over 140 air sorties and the use of some 13,000 cannon rounds, against PRG-held areas in Ngo Thanh, Ngoc Bay, Trung Nghia and Chu Rep (Kontum), and the region west of the provincial capital of Pleiku. The defenders killed, wounded or captured close to 200 Saigon troops, destroyed 3 GMC lorries and 3 105mm howitzers, shot down a helicopter, and took hold of a great quantity of guns and ammunition. In the four days ending Sept. 29 in Tay Ninh, the PLAF countered with might and main an operation by many battalions of regular and territorial troops of Saigon in the village of Thanh Duc, Go Dau district, and in Bao Don and Truong Mit areas, putting out of action more than 800 of the land-grabbers by wiping out an entire battalion and decimating another. Out of humanitarianism, they gave medical treatment to a number of wounded Saigon troops, and released them shortly afterward.

Guerillas and the militia in My Tho broke dozens of Saigon operations, putting out of combat 2,740 cease-fire-breakers, wrecking 9 military vehicles, and capturing over 180 assorted guns. In the first three days of October, the regional army of Kien Tuong province wiped out 80 Saigon troops and downed 2 war planes, and succeeded in hurling 2 Saigon battalions back to their previous positions.

Countering the close to 1,000 operations by the Saigon army in September, the liberation forces in Ben Tre, My Tho, Kien Phong and Kien Tuong, all told, wiped out more than 1,000 intruders.

The same month saw the PLAF defeat army corps-sized operations by Saigon in the provinces of Can Tho, Chau Doc, Vinh Long, An Giang and Kien Giang, Western Nam Bo, putting out of combat about 3,000 troops of both the regular and territorial armies of the Saigon administration. The regional army and para-military forces defending the liberated zone of Thua Thien, in the same period, inflicted more than 500 casualties on Saigon raiders in Khe Thai, Mo Tau, Ly Hi and Bach Ma areas. They also shot afire 2 aircraft, blasted 2 105-mm cannons, and 2 bulldozers, and bagged quite an amount of guns and ammunition. Intercepting Saigon troops, who were taking advantage of a storm to intrude into Huong Thuy and Phong Dien districts on Oct. 7 and 8, local liberation forces inflicted dozens of casualties, and damaged a commando boat.

Mixing with civilian fishing boats, Saigon combat launches and commando boats, in September, also operated near the coast of Central Viet Nam, from Thanh Hoi to Cua Viet. On Sept. 30, however, they were taken under fire by liberation coast-guards, and driven out of Cua Viet. One of the ships was heavily damaged, and many occupants were killed or wounded.

All this is but an initial warning. The bellicose Saigon administration will be punished even more heavily, unless it immediately stops sabotaging peace.

THE reception for Madame Ngo Ba Thanh, a woman leader just released by the Saigon regime, cancelled and turned into a meeting in the hall of Saigon Continental Hotel on October 5, 1973 has raised the crucial issue of the third political force and its action for the respect and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Thieu persists in denying the existence of it as of political prisoners in his jails. The two issues are intimately and organically linked. They have been given rise to by the same thing, the US-imposed neo-colonialist and fascist rule.

Let's go back to 1954. The Geneva Agreement on Viet Nam recognized its independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and guaranteed democratic liberties while strictly banning any reprisals of discrimination against former resistants, to pave the way for free general elections for the reunification of the country provided for July 1956. But the Diem rule, installed by the Americans, rejected and sabotaged the accords signed. It began with fusillades on demonstrators acclaiming the restoration of peace, drives of denunciation and massacre of "Communists," who were actually former resistants and patriots militating for peace. It ended with the creation of a separate state allowing the US to "extend its frontiers to the seventeenth parallel in Viet Nam." This policy of treason to the nation and utter opposition to the people expectedly triggered a nation-wide and popular resistance. In the countryside, there were first the 1958 and 1959 simultaneous uprisings which resulted in the emergence of the National Front for Liberation on December 20, 1960. In the towns erupted the workers' movement and the "lawful" action of the intellectuals, students, school pupils and religious communities including the Buddhists, most ferociously victimized by Diem.

By the end of 1954, the South Vietnamese prisons were overcrowded with political prisoners. The urban protest movement however continued to mount. The third force came into being and had its share in the overthrow of the Diem dictatorship.

The latter's direct successor, the Thieu administration, is a "Diem regime without Diem," even worse, because of its call for help to the US expeditionary corps, its most atrocious repression against the people and its infringement of its own 1967 Constitution.

The thousand and one jails, known and unknown, in the Saigon territory, hold from 200,000 to 300,000 inmates, at least 90 % of them political detainees consisting of Vietnamese civilian personnel not yet returned to our side and members of the Third Force.

Others of the same inclination are not imprisoned but reduced to silence by neo-fascist terror and oppression: clandestine liquidation under the "Phoenix" programme or massive arrests, detention without trial or with travesties of trial, horrible torture and summary executions. They are a "silent majority" not from disappointment like in the US but by the force of circumstances.

The third force is a specific phenomenon to the Thieu tyranny. There is no such thing in the areas under the Provisional Revolutionary Government for the simple reason that democratic liberties are respected and ensured there. As has been written into its 1967 Political Programme, the NFL "favours the union of all social sections, all parties, all organizations, all religious creeds, all patriotic personalities, and all patriotic and progressive forces, irrespective of political leanings and with a view to the common struggle against US imperialism and its agents and for the recovery of our sacred national rights and construction."

● in the cities

o 104 workers with many years of seniority at the BGI Soft Drinks Factory in Saigon have been recently laid off. The Factory's trade union immediately launched a campaign to demand that they all be reinstated and labour compensations, severance pay and seniority allowances be paid to those who will not be rehired.

o Success was won by the Vanco medico-pharmaceutical workers' trade union in Saigon in their long action for wage-lifts. The Company's management had to agree to an overall 20 percent increase — 77 Saigon piasters daily for each worker on an average.

o Severe unemployment has been confronting thousands of Saigon printers, and thousands of others are being threatened by the same danger. As a result of the price rise of newsprint and the subsequent decrease of their circulation, newspapers with small capitals have had to close down. At present only 16 of them are still appearing.

o A Congress of 51 Western Nam Bo bus companies' representatives on 21 lines met on Oct. 5 to denounce the Saigon administration's condonement of corruption and briberies by its agents, which posed a real threat to them. The participants in the Congress decided that if in a week, the administration did not comply with their request, they would unanimously refuse to pay traffic, parking and other taxes... and would pick up passengers outside bus stations, to avoid using these.

o The Tran Quoc Buu gang, camouflaged as "trade union" bosses, working hand in glove with the Nguyen Van Thieu financiers, have planted their henchmen in South Vietnamese trade unions. They have been trying to remove from responsible posts those who are outside their clan, so as to lay hold of trade union funds. In the Railwaymen's trade union, they have been creeping into commanding positions and paralysing all activities. In the Bus' Union, they have ousted small shareholders of bus companies by compelling them to sell their shares. 95 per cent of shares in two bus companies — the *Vinavan* and the *Public Transports Company* — have thus fallen into their hands.

o It is reported by the *Dan Toc* that over 10,000 inhabitants of Quang Tri were herded into the Dong Tam concentration camp in Long Khanh province where they have been living a wretched life. Some families have not had enough rice to eat for several months on end. A 8-man family has been living on half a kilogram of rice per day. Others have to live on soup or maize instead of boiled rice. Each family is allowed to buy only 2 or 3 kg of rice at one time, and people who request to buy more are labelled "purveyors to the revolutionaries" and brutally manhandled. Money, rice and other commodities supposed to represent aid reserved to them have been finding their way into the pockets of Thieu's agents to the tune of 4 million SVN piasters.

o Feeling is running high among students' parents and other Saigon circles because 80 percent of the candidates have been failed in the second part of Baccalaureat exams as a result of a policy applied by the Saigon administration. "This is something we've never seen — this is a record figure," said a Saigon MP who added: "Tens of thousands of families will be worried, and tens of thousands of teen-agers will be forcibly drafted into the army if they don't have enough money to continue their studies." The same MP strongly condemned the Saigon Education Minister for the present objectionable educational policy of the Thieu regime.

o The *Dien Tin* reported on Oct. 7 that Reverend Thich Minh Chau, principal of the Buddhist University of Van Hanh, was summoned before the Field Court Martial of the Third Tactical Area, on charge of "disseminating ideas detrimental to national security and beneficial to the communists."

South Viet Nam's Third Force

To patriotic forces which "for one reason or another do not adhere to the Front, it proposes coordinated action against the common enemy, the US aggressors and their flunkeys."

It is in this context that the Alliance of the National, Democratic and Peace Forces of Viet Nam, founded in 1968 in the cities, and soon outlawed and persecuted by the Thieu rule has become a Front's ally with full equality and staunch comrade-in-arms. it closely co-operated with the NFL in organizing the South Vietnamese People's Representatives' Conference which chose the Provisional Revolutionary Government and its Advisory Council. Many members of the Alliance's Central Committee are members of the PRG and sit on the Council. Its President, Dr Trinh Dinh Thao, is Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Both political organizations have been relentlessly militating for the juridical recognition of the third force. In the 10-point proposal of the NFL delegation to the 16th plenary session of the Paris quadripartite Conference on Viet Nam, on May 8, 1969, the 4th point laid down the principle of the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese which consists in choosing by means of free and democratic general elections "a Constituent Assembly to work out a constitution and appoint a coalition government of South Viet Nam, an embodiment of national concord and a cross-section of the population." Point 5 specified that "from the time of the restoration of peace and the holding of the general elections, neither side will be allowed to impose its political regime on the South Vietnamese."

"The political forces representing various popular segments and different political tendencies in South Viet Nam who stand for peace, independence and neutrality, including those who for political reasons have had to take up residence abroad, will engage in negotiations for the formation of an interim coalition government on a fair and democratic basis and mutual respect, with a view to a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam."

The NFL and the Saigon regime being ipso facto eligible, other political forces of South Viet Nam, at home or abroad will make up a third constituent part of the interim coalition government, hence its name third force.

Between 1969 and 1972, the PRG's new peace overtures dwelt on the tripartite composition of the interim coalition government and on the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord which, without being a government, must be vested with extensive powers to impel forward the implementation of an accord to be signed and to organize the free and democratic elections.

This sound suggestion was adopted by Article 12 of the Paris Agreement which reads as follows:

"a) Immediately after the cease-fire, the two South Vietnamese parties shall hold consultations in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, mutual respect and mutual non-elimination to set up a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord of three equal segments. The Council shall operate on the principle of unanimity...

b) The National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord shall have the task of promoting the two South Vietnamese parties' implementation of this Agreement, achievement of national reconciliation and concord and ensurance of democratic liberties. The National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord will organize the free and democratic general elections..."

This was a sort of juridical recognition by international law of the third political force.

With obvious bad faith the US side has tried to minimize it by means of a perverted interpretation of the Agreement as Henry Kissinger, principal US negotiator at the Paris Conference and present Secretary of State, declared at a press conference in Washington on January 24, 1973, that is one day only after the initialling of the Accord:

The two South Vietnamese parties will decide, will come to terms on the free election... This will be supervised and organized first by an organization called National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord whose membership will be appointed on a par by both parties.

But if each South Vietnamese party, the PRG and the Saigon regime, could nominate each half of the members of the third segment, the Council would be practically bi-partite, instead of being tri-partite. It would be a flagrant violation of the Paris Agreement and at the same time a systematic denial of democratic liberties, including freedom of organization to those living in the Thieu zone, who do not see eye to eye with Thieu nor want to adhere to the NFL or to the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

Thieu has his own way of construing Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, while keeping in jail members of the third force and arresting others. A case in point is that of Madame Ngo Ba Thanh, a distinguished woman lawyer, graduated from Paris, Barcelone and US universities, paroled on September 21, 1973, after 2 years and 3 days of imprisonment and a 6-month refusal to eat solid foods. Other critics of Thieu's policies like Nguyen Long, a lawyer, Thieu Son, a writer and Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Students' Union, thousands of teachers, journalists, students and school pupils, religious dignitaries, trade-unionists etc. are still in jail. Two hundred people attended the October 5, 1973 rally at the Continental. Is other evidence needed to prove the existence of the third force, which, as General Duong Van Minh described it, makes up the majority reduced to silence of the South Vietnamese population in the Saigon-controlled areas?

What do these people want? First and foremost peace, not a neo-colonialist *Pax americana* but a genuine peace with independence and freedom. Then the right to live and earn an honest living, democratic liberties and the freedom to love their country, the latter's gradual and peaceful reunification. All that is consistent with the provisions of the Paris Agreement but inconsonant with US neo-colonialist policy and continuation of US involvement and intervention in South Viet Nam.

Some third force personalities including Madame Ngo Ba Thanh mean to be the mediator, the bridge between the two South Vietnamese parties. Such an intention on the part of those who have experienced persecution, prison and even medieval torture at the hands of the Saigon rule only deserves praise.

The Thieu gang however far from being touched by such magnanimity look upon them with hatred and scorn. Hatred because the third force's existence and activity gives the lie to the preposterous claim that Saigon is the "legitimate," "elected" and the only "lawful" government of South Viet Nam. Scorn because it is armed to the teeth by the US to deal with helpless men, women, youngsters and children.

Hasn't Thieu tens of times called the third force names like "hooligans," "lumpers" without realizing that abuses are no arguments and that they generally come home to roost.

Thieu and his US protectors have sworn to make away with the political prisoners and the third force. This heinous dream is fortunately impossible to materialized. The political prisoners have suffered much and will suffer more but if their bodies are broken, their spirit will never be so. Solidarity is being cemented among the inmates. Their life is well organized, in spite of persecution and vicious tricks of their jailers and guards. Intellectural life is paid due attention too. Some come into prison illiterate and come out with an elementary or secondary education. And all are aware that they have a common enemy, imperialism and its agents, and are inspired with the same single purpose of fighting with might and main for survival and for the sacred national rights. They know they are backed by the nation as a whole and by the world peoples shocked by US-Thieu horrors.

The third force, instead of withering, thrives under repression. Saigon's anti-national and anti-popular policy is alienating its exponents and increasing the ranks of their enemies. When rice feaches more than 20,000 Saigon piastres per 100 kilos, when a captain of the Saigon Army earns 20,000 a month, a university professor 25,000, a category A civil servant (with a Licentiate of law) 19,000, a Category B civil servant (with a Bachelor degree) 13,000, it is easily understandable that no one is for Thieu, except for comprador capitalists and bureaucratic militarists, maxi-robbers and mini-robbers. In *France Soir* of September 29, 1973, Yves Guy Berger related the dissappointment of a police lieutenant-colonel paid 35,000 piastres a month, who complained that he could not often afford duck as it cost 1,000 piastres a piece. So what of the simple (and honest) policemen or the private who earns, 5,000 piastres a month, which is enough only for his American cigarettes at the rate of 520 piastres to a dollar, after the new and twelfth official devaluation of the Saigon currency.

The third force favours the implementation of the Paris Agreement which ensures its right to live and democratic liberties.

Therefore the South Vietnamese and the Vietnamese people as a whole back its legitimate claims and insist that the US and Thieu immediately and totally release the political prisoners still under detention and ensure the democratic liberties listed in the Agreement's Article 11.

We eagerly hope that one day the delegates from the third force will take their seats at the La Celle Saint Cloud or elsewhere beside the PRG and Saigon representatives and participate in the discussion of South Vietnamese internal affairs and contribute to the formation of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord consisting of three equal segments. That day will mark a decisive turning in the gruelling and protracted but certainly victorious struggle of our people for the strict and complete implementation of the Paris Agreement.

XUAN KHANH

Everything for the distinguished guests

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, head of the RSVN PRG delegation at the Algiers 4th Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries

Moving meeting of two comrades-in-arms : President Nguyen Huu Tho and President Houari Boumédiène at Dar el Beida airport

Image of the friendship between the RSVN and the DPRA at the reception in the People's Palace

THE first leg of Chaiman Nguyen Huu Tho's recent historic African and European tour was the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria, the site of the recent Non-Aligned Summit. It was also the first country to invite Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, in a particularly warm letter, to visit its prosperous, picturesque and heroic land.

Not long after the plane began flying over the Mediterranean, many of us in the delegation stuck their faces to the windows to get a view of the land on the southern shore of the sea which we had longed to see and for which we felt a deep affection.

"Algeria ! There it is !"

An orange shore with a fringe of white foam appeared before our eyes. Our plane entered Algeria's air space and turned westward. The Algerian Ambassador to the DRVN, instructed by President Boumédiène to accompany Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho was among us. Still very young, he had been a captain of the Algerian Liberation Army in the anti-French resistance. He went to the Chairman's seat to welcome him into the Algerian air space and shook hands with us all. Through a window he showed us the historical and heroic town of Constantine, his native peninsula and President Boumédiène's home village.

In a while the plane headed for Algiers, following the coast from east to west. It was a beautiful city with uniformly white blocks. All the whiter since these stand against a background of blue sea and orange sand dotted with dark green vineyards and olive, orange and banana orchards.

ALGIERS will come down in mankind's history with the 4th Non-Aligned Summit. The whole of Algiers was in a festive mood, in a festival of world peoples. It seemed that it had put on new dresses to greet its distinguished guests. Each square was a forest of flags, so were Algiers and Algeria itself. Fighting flags of peoples who had toppled colonialist domination, and of those still battling for their national independence. Flags of all colours proudly fluttering in the wind...

Algeria welcomed its guests with a magnificent blue sky, immaculate clouds and golden sun. But the most valuable of all was the warmth of its people whose enemy is also ours, and who, together with us, had to wage the same struggle for independence and freedom.

The Algerian friends did all they could to make the conference a success. It was not simple at all to set up a machinery for the reception of nearly 80 delegations and some 400 pressmen who reached Algiers almost at the same time. On an average there were three landings per hour at Dar el Beida airport. The troops firing the gun salutes had to be relieved from time to time — Musicians of the military band had achieved a feat : master the scores of 80 national anthems. President Boumédiène himself, the great friend of the Third-World countries' peoples, broke a record by standing by for several successive days at the airport to greet Heads of State.

Algeria reserved a whole area for the conference, including the impressive, majestic People's Palace both ancient and modern in style and equipped with up-to-date facilities. Built on a large hill the palace commanded a magnificent view on the sea. Further on was the hotel zone stretching over 10 kilometres or so : Hotel El Manar had just been inaugurated. On the right of the Palace stood villas reserved for kings, emperors, Chiefs of State, presidents and prime ministers — each of them had its own architecture and decorations. Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho was accommodated at villa N° 29, near those of the Prime Minister of Burma and the Emperor of Ethiopia about one kilometre from the People's Palace. Villa N° 29 was right on the sea shore, with beds of red flowers in front to make a difference from the immediate neighbouring ones adorned with yellow flowers.

THE inauguration of the Conference was an historic moment. At 4.30 p.m. on September 5, black limousines streamed from the guests' villas to the Conference Hall, each with a motocycle escort. White kerchiefs, green trousers with red stripes and swords drawn, Republican Guards lined up from the gate to the Conference Hall. Professional and amateur photographers and cameramen aimed their cameras at the entrance. It was 4.40 p.m. Everyone did his best to have the best possible view. A black car flying a blue and red flag with a yellow star stopped short at the shout of the guards' commander. Out walked Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho onto the red carpet between the two rows of guards of honour, smiling and waving to the crowd and the pressmen. A round of applause burst out.

"Madame Binh ! Madame Binh !"

They had recognized the Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the world's only woman Foreign Minister, who, together with Minister Xuan Thuy of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and with the backing of her people and the liberation forces at home had for five years in Paris defended the national fundamental rights and the right to self-determination of her fellow-countrymen. Close behind Madame Nguyen Thi Binh were Deputy Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son and other members of the PRG delegation.

Rounds of applause succeeded one another and suddenly exploded at the appearance of Cambodia's Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, Chairman of the FUNK — the organizer and leader of the epoch-making and victorious resistance of the Khmer people.

The welcome turned into three cheers :

"Fidel ! Fidel ! Fidel !"

Fidel Castro was dressed in an olive uniform with a major's badge. He had shining eyes, bushy eyebrows, a fine beard, a wide forehead and an energetic face that the flashlight of photographers and cameramen made still more striking. A beacon in Latin America, he was also a star of the Algiers Non-Aligned Summit.

A thunderous ovation erupted into prolonged ripples. A rather tall man with curly hair on the temple, a large forehead, an abundant mustache and lively eyes, was greeted in Arab, French, English and Spanish by shouts of :

"Long live Boumédiène ! Long live Boumédiène !"

The Algerian President did not look much different from the military commander he had been in the anti-French resistance war. Everyone found in him ebullient nationalism and lofty internationalism. He spoke of his country with unbounded love and about his friends' lands with high respect.

His words sounded like swords and guns when directed against enemies. I shall never forget what he said about Viet Nam in his customarily warm voice : "The resistance of the Vietnamese people is both an example and a warning : in spite of all the genocidal engines and methods deployed, the imperialist powers have been unable to break the spirit of an entire people."

"Through your fight," he added, "the world has fully realized the gravity of an imperialist aggression against a small country ; the imperialists never shrink from any means of violence nor have any regard for any moral value. It is also through your fight that the world has clearly seen the fighting capability of an entire people who fear no sacrifices : a people small by their population and the means at their disposal but great by their noble soul and national traditions ; a people who perseveringly confront imperialism and deals it crushing blows.

"The fight of your people will remain as a magnificent instance of combat organization, revolutionary tenacity and stamina. And it is that very people who won victory over a formidable war machinery at the peak of its strength and sophistication. And it is that same people who completely foiled every divisive manoeuvre and baffled every trick with their iron will, apparent in the rejection of all compromise as regards the cause of liberation and independence, in the recovery of their place among other peoples."

PRESIDENT Boumédiène extolled the struggle of our people and the sacrifices that they had made. As Chairman of the Algiers Conference, an unprecedented gathering in history attended by the representatives of over one billion people and three-fourths of the earth, he showed a special regard for the PRG delegation. Addressing the assembly after President Bourguiba of Tunisia, President Allende's special envoy and Premier Fidel Castro on the first day, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho was the last among the four distinguished delegates to speak after Chairman Boumédiène's concluding speech. The conference's press described the gesture as a "Godsend" and "Special privilege" reserved by Boumédiène for the PRG which fully deserved the signal honour.

President Boumédiène stood by Viet Nam like a comrade-in-arms. Nguyen Van Thieu and company were so foolish as to send a protest to the conference against the PRG presence. Boumédiène, and the whole of Algeria acting on his instructions, worked with might and main for Viet Nam and the large family of Non-Aligned nations.

8,000 cars and 30,000 Algerians from all parts of the land had been mobilized to serve the Conference. I had the opportunity to talk with a driver. He entertained special sympathy for Viet Nam. His car was available any time for the Vietnamese guests.

"You Vietnamese have little time to spare. I know how necessary and valuable time is for you."

He had a liking for all things Vietnamese from cigarettes to badges and fountain-pens. Indeed, his feeling for Viet Nam had been unalloyed and unaltered. Impressed and sent by the French to the Mekong delta in the first Indochina war he "went over to the Viet Minh side," as he put it, a few months after he had landed. He explained his behaviour in these terms :

"I did not do so out of great political consciousness : I only knew that the Vietnamese were a simple and kind people. They had nothing to be punished for. I also had the impression that their lot was no different from ours."

In that frame of mind, the Algerian recruit left for the jungle to join Uncle Ho's troops' ranks, and since then patriotism, nationalism and internationalism had mingled into one and the same thing in his mind over the years.

He was beside himself with joy when meeting us. He was ready to do anything for us. But he had a nagging worry about our flag, the PRG flag. Formerly in the same region he had fought under the yellow-starred red flag. Why a different one now ?

"Why do you add that blue field ? What does this mean ?" he asked.

After listening to Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho's speech at the conference, he came and patted me on shoulders, laughing : "I understand now," he said. "I love your blue field."

Speaking of love, he was lost in thought. Something very remote was recalled to his mind : it was in the happiest days of his life as a soldier.

Fighting in our ranks, he had fallen in love with a Vietnamese girl. But difficulties had prevented him from marrying her. In 1954, when he was leaving Viet Nam, her girl friend wished him happiness in his homeland. "In compliance with her wishes," he confided to me, "I have now a family and live happily with my six children. I am thankful to her for her wishes."

Everyday, he drove the delegates to and from the Conference Hall and showed such thoughtfulness to us that even our friends were surprised:

"Time is money for you, I realize it," he said.

Such tokens of affection for Viet Nam were not rare.

A saleswoman of a department store near the Conference building asked one of us : "Are you a Japanese or a Chinese ? If not what is your nationality ?"

"Guess it !"

"No, I can't."

"We're Vietnamese !"

"Oh ! Vietnamese !" she shouted. And forgetting the wall separating a foreigner and a native, a man and a girl, in a country where women are still wearing veils in the streets, she grasped the hand of our man and led him to her friends.

"Viet Nam is very good to us," they said. "But how is Algeria to you ?"

"Very good, too !"

"And France ?"

"Not always good."

"And Egypt, and Israel ?"

Such questions helped them to see the close connections between Algeria and Viet Nam, between Algeria and the Republic of South Viet Nam.

It was not so hard to come by such a sympathy for Viet Nam for the PRG delegation among Algerians. After the "Non-Aligned Summit," Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho paid a state visit to Algeria. He and his delegation began their tour with Annaba, a city 600 km east of Algiers but also flooded with flags of Non-Aligned countries and streamers displaying the same slogans as in Algiers. The city, ranking third after Algiers and Constantine, lies on the shores of the Mediterranean. There Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho visited the El Hadjar Iron and Steel Complex, whose production totalling now 410,000 tons per year, will be raised to 1,800,000 tons in 1977 and the phosphate fertilizer mill with an annual production of half a million tons.

"Can this production meet local requirements?" Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho asked.

"I am sorry to say, Mr Chairman, that it falls short of the needs of our agriculture which is fast developing", replied the plant manager.

Factories, industrial centres, are like early fruits of the independence cultivated with the blood of the Algerian people in a struggle against the 12-year long domination of a European imperialism.

From Annaba, the delegation drove to Constantine, passing through Skikda where it went along roads lined with cork-trees, and visited a gas-producing plant. In Annaba and Constantine, the countryside is a series of gently sloping hills, covered with grass to the skyline and dotted here and there with green cork-trees looking like a natural ornament.

We drove amidst harvested cornfields still bristling with golden stubble and grassland where herds of sheep were grazing :

Constantine is an ancient city built on a high hill ; it looks all the more majestic as it is watered by deep streams spanned by many bridges. When the French first invaded Algeria, Algiers fell in 1834, but Constantine resisted till 1837. Under French rule, the struggle never ended in that city and came to a head with the 1954-1962 resistance war. The Constantinese won the dramatic battle fought on August 20, 1955 under the command of Zighout Yousef against the townlet of Conde Smendou which is now named after that hero. At a reception given in honour of Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, the Chairman of the people's council of Constantine said ; "Despite a long distance between them, our two peoples are very close as we always support each other in the fight against the same enemy till final victory."

(Continued on page 6)

The DRVN in brief

GROUNDNUT-HUSKING MACHINE

The Hanoi Export Food-Processing Factory has designed a groundnut husking machine for the biggest ever "100-ton groundnut crop" this year. The machine can husk 3 tons of groundnut a day. A sorting device has also been developed which can raise the labour efficiency of each worker from 14 kg to 2,800 kg per day.

4,700km OF NEW RURAL ROADS

Since early this year, the 18 provinces and cities of North Viet Nam have repaired or built 12,500 km of rural road. Out of the newly-built 4,700 km, 50 per cent concurrently serve as irrigation embankments. 5,000 new culverts and thousands of rural bridges have also been built. Hundreds of suspension bridges over 100-metre long have been spanned over rivers by highlanders.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AT THE SEA PRODUCTS COLLEGE

52 papers have been completed and many of the findings applied in production.

The rearing of aquatic animals and their exploitation have been helped by researches on fresh water and brackish water faunas.

ULTRA-SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTER

The General Department of Information has started manufacturing the first ultra-short wave transmitter in Viet Nam. This will usher in a new era in local broadcasting. The rural areas will from now on be able to tune in to provincial broadcasting programs through the YKB system with a clear reception.

The new transmitter has been put to extensive use in both lowland and highland provinces.

We strongly score US piracy

IN the first days of October, Yankee imperialism committed series of piratic acts against Cuba, the first socialist country in the Western Hemisphere, reports from Havana said.

On Oct. 1, the "Marble Island", a Cuban-chartered freighter transporting sugar to Chile, was hailed in the Panama Canal, on orders from the US authorities there. The reason for the arrest was said to be a suit filed by the Chilean sugar company "Industria Nacional Azucarera Chile," which also unreasonably claimed for damage totalling 4,235,298 dollars.

The attempt, however, utterly failed. The Cuban crew succeeded in getting the ship into the international waters in the Pacific.

The next day, another Cuban ship, the "Imias", home-bound from Japan, was also hailed in the Panama Canal, allegedly by "request" from the military junta in Chile.

Two days latter, Cuban reactionaries living in exile in the United States were ordered by their bosses to assault two Cuban fishing boats in the international waters near the Bahamas. One Cuban fisherman was killed, 13 others were reported missing, and one of the craft was set on fire.

It is thus clear that the Nixon administration has never changed its hostile attitude to Cuba. Moreover, it has further proved, by these piratic acts, the "US imperialism — piracy" equation. Also, by using absurbd pretexts, it has unwittingly shown US hand in the reactionary putsch in Chile.

It is only natural that the public, in Latin America and elsewhere, has come out very strong against such piracy. The RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, also issued on Oct. 10 a statement voicing strong condemnation of US imperialism, while expressing resolute support for the Cuban Revolutionary Government.

The South Vietnamese people, close comrades-in-arms of the people of Cuba, while highly indignant at those US overt provocations acclaim the Cuban sailors who resisted so courageously the American provocators. We join the world public in demanding that US imperialism put an end to all provocations against the Republic of Cuba, and fully respect the freedom of movement on the high seas, by refraining from hindering the passage of Cuban ships through the Panama Canal and in international waters as well. The US must answer for the safety of the "Imias" and be fully responsible for all the consequences arising from the case of the "Marble Island."

It is our unshakable conviction that Cuba's legitimate effort to get the "Imias" released, effort supported by world progressives, will be successful, and her brave crew will soon make their triumphal home-coming.

Everything for the distinguished guests

(Continued from page 5)

Algeria had fought the same war as Viet Nam. Trampled underfoot by the aggressors, the Algerians of this generation had experienced similar My Lais and Ba Lang Ans in their country: a kid shedding bitter tears nears his mother napalmed to death, a beheaded corpse lying on the roadside were common sights in the war imposed on the Algerian people in 1954-1962. Recalling the events occurring early in the last century, this is a confession by a French aggressor: "Destruction, burning, looting, everything was done to erase houses and vegetation" (June 5, 1842 Report by Lieutenant Colonel Saint Arnaud).

Montagnac, another French Lieutenant-Colonel, related: "I ordered him (i.e. the commander of an Algerian army unit) to be beheaded and his left hand cut off. I went to the camp with his head at the point of my bayonet and his hand stuck to a ramrod. That is the way we waged our war against the Arabs, my brave dear friend!"

But in the sky of Algeria, like that of Viet Nam, there are always bright stars to light our road. In her national history, there is a long roll of heroes who taught their countrymen how to fight against the enemy and to die for the nation to survive: El Hadj Ahmed, Abd El Kader, Boumuza, Mahamed El Hadj Mokrani... The Algerians rose up in all parts of the country and Algiers, Constantine, the Aures forest, the Sahara desert were their resistance bases; the fighting in the Sahara lasted for decades...

Our Algerian friends are proud of their guerilla warfare. Abd El Kader, first fought the invaders with regular forces built in urban centres; then with militia units trained in the maquis, he mounted ambushes and surprise attacks, and this was the origin of Algeria's guerilla warfare.

This glorious past of the Algerian people fired them to bring the resistance to a height in 1954 and to end it victoriously about ten years ago.

It is a tie with our people which makes them understand better our struggle and the glorious task they have to fulfil.

How can I forget the profound sentiment expressed by President Boumédiène when at the farewell reception given our delegation on the eve of its departure from Algiers, he said: "By wholeheartedly welcoming you to Algeria as brothers and comrades-in-arms and as the worthy representatives of a people having perseveringly, courageously and stubbornly fought a heroic war, we only show the affection, of our people, those who keenly followed with great sympathy the various stages of your struggle. We pledge ourselves to staunchly back your epic action and greatly admire your victorious confrontation with the topmost imperialist in the world.

While rightly appreciating your courage and sacrifices, we warmly hail your lofty spirit and fully realize the profound significance of your matchless heroism aimed at a lofty goal — the safeguard of human dignity — which highlights the genius of your people and asserts its anthenticity.

Thanks to our common remarkable ideological achievements and our experiences, we have been able to strengthen our long standing friendly relations."

OUR two countries are closely bound together by an invisible tie woven in the course of our struggle. As our mutual support is reflected daily and hourly by concrete deeds, this invisible tie bounds us more and more tightly while we embark on the road to independence, peace, democracy and social progress.

The mutual sympathy between Viet Nam and Algeria was more apparent when, at the last reception given in the Republican Palace in the presence of our Algerian friends, the diplomatic corps and photographer-reporters and TV cameramen, President Boumédiène and Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho hugged each other most fraternally and Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho presented to President Boumédiène an ultra-rapid M 16 machinegun captured by the "Algerian battalion" of the PLAF in an onset on the GIs south of Da Nang airbase, early in 1972.

"Dear President Boumédiène, each exploit achieved by our South Vietnamese people was associated with the help of the heroic Algerian people!"

"Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho! Your feats-of-arms set glowing examples to all peoples fighting for national liberation and supply valuable experience to the whole mankind!"

HUYNH VAN LY

For the 28th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Laos (October 12, 1945 — October 12, 1973)

A stage of struggle of paramount importance

HISTORICALLY, the 1945-1973 period was only a stage in the long liberation process of the Lao people. But in terms of its significance to the fate of Laos, that is an unprecedented one. During these twenty eight years, the Lao people fought jointly with the other fraternal peoples of the Indochinese peninsula, against two successive and most brutal aggressions by two big imperialist powers, France and the United States. Ever since Laos declared her independence, it is safe to say that at no time did the Lao people cease confronting with enemies many times stronger than themselves in all respects. In terms of physical strength, never was it an equal fight. Opposed to the sovereignty, independence and unity of the Lao people were the most ruthless imperialist forces ever known in the world since the conclusion of World War Two. First it was French imperialism which was aided and abetted in every way by the US. Then came the US imperialists with all their economic, political and military might. After many stages of struggle in different forms, this fighting one has concluded with a brilliant success of the multi-national people of Laos.

Their success is great because the terms of the Vientiane Agreement signed on February 21, 1973 are actually the exalted objectives the patriotic forces of Laos have fought for with tenacity all through the past 28 years, fearless of all sacrifices and hardships. They are sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, an end to US aggression and intervention and the right of the Lao people to decide their own destiny. The Vientiane Agreement is a political and juridical document recognizing what imperialism has always denied the Lao people for nearly 30 years.

The Vientiane Agreement is also a major achievement of the Lao patriotic forces because it reflects the reality of the present balance of forces in Laos. The patriotic forces have now become stronger than at any previous period in Laos's history. The liberated zone controlled by these forces now accounts for four fifths of the national territory and shelters almost half of the population of the whole country. There, the Lao people have organized their life, production, education and fight on a new basis, thus creating a firm and well-tested base for the advance of the revolution. The Lao patriotic armed forces are a strong army capable of defeating all aggressive plans of imperialism. The bloc of national unity embracing the people of all nationalities and social sections in Laos and built on the alliance between the Lao patriotic front and the patriotic neutralist forces is expanding and becoming stronger day by day. The credit and influence of the patriotic forces led by Prince Souphanouvong is vigorously growing even in the areas controlled by the Vientiane side. In the international arena, thanks to the justice of the persistent and valiant liberation struggle as well as the international significance of the Lao people's resistance against US aggression, sympathy and support from the progressive mankind is also increasing continually. All this growth of the patriotic forces and the more and more serious weakening and split among the reactionary forces dependent on the US have markedly changed the balance of forces in Laos and constitute sure guarantees for the attainment of the objectives of struggle of the Lao people as defined in the Peace Agreement of February 21, 1973.

The gruelling effort full of twists and turns that finally ended with the signing of the Protocol of September 14, 1973 further proves that peace, independence, democracy and national concord in Laos are the predominant and irreversible trend in the political life in Laos at present.

Its successful conclusion is, first of all, the triumph of the determination to resist imperialist aggression and win back national independence and sovereignty. A small and poor country, Laos can fulfil its national aspirations in the battle against such a big and powerful imperialism as the US only by displaying an unshakable determination to make every sacrifice and endure every hardship in a long and tenacious struggle, even at the cost of heavy losses in certain periods. It was thanks to this resolve and tenacity that the Lao people step by step grew from weak to strong, and foiled one after another all enemy plans and won such a basic success.

If the tenacious, unflagging will to resist foreign imperialist aggression has been the most significant characteristic in the past 28 years in the field of Lao external relations, the most significant thing in the sphere of her internal relations in the robust will for national unity and concord displayed by the patriotic forces, first of all by the Lao Patriotic Front. In fact all through the past 28 years, the Issala (Freedom) Front in the past and the Lao Patriotic Front at present has constantly upheld the banner of national unity and concord in its dealing with all wicked divisive moves by the enemies and their agents. While doing so, it has set a bright example by following a consistent and sincere policy of national unity right within its ranks. It is actually for this reason that the Front and its venerated leader, Prince Souphanouvong, have earned respect and support from the overwhelming majority of the Lao people.

The judicious policy of the Front of uniting the entire people and firmly resisting imperialism to regain independence for the nation and freedom and happiness for the people has been the main factor of the present success of the fraternal Lao people. This is also a firm guarantee for still bigger successes in the future.

Sharing the same fate with the fraternal Lao people in the long and arduous confrontation with common enemies, the people of South Viet Nam, on the occasion of this great festive day of the Lao people, heartily hail their splendid victory. We are firmly confident that with their sense of purpose, the sound leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front and the vigorous support of the world's progressive forces, especially the militant solidarity of the three Indochinese peoples, the people of Laos will succeed in building a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

RSVN-TANZANIA and RSVN-UGANDA friendly ties strengthened

IN the last leg of his good will tour of a number of Non-Aligned countries, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee and of the Advisory Council to the RSVN PRG, at the head of a PRG delegation arrived in the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Uganda on state visits to those countries (respectively from Sept. 25 to 28, and from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, 1973).

In Tanzania as well as in Uganda he was honoured at his arrival and departure with all the due rituals for visiting Heads of State, and warmly welcomed by the Presidents, Governments and people. "Visits like the one made by Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho," commented President I. Amin, "are most appreciated by all the peoples of Africa, because they help them get a deeper insight into the South Vietnamese people's fight."

RSVN-Tanzania and RSVN-Uganda summits took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship and militant solidarity. Joint Communiqués crowning them were signed and made public in Dar es-Salaam and Kampala.

They hailed the Paris Agreement of Viet Nam as an historic success of the Vietnamese people and of the progressives all over the world, and a considerable contribution to the drive against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and aggressive sionism in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The Joint Communiqués warmly lauded the RSVN PRG and the DRVN Government for their respect for, and loyal implementation of, the provisions of the Paris Agreement and Joint Communiqué on Viet Nam, and strongly condemned the US-Saigon violations of these instruments. They demanded that the US government and the Saigon administration abide by them, more particularly respect the cease-fire, return all political prisoners still in jail and ensure democratic liberties in the Saigon-controlled zone so as to pave the way for the holding of genuinely free and democratic elections in South Viet Nam. In the RSVN-Uganda Joint Communiqué, President I. Amin also voiced his support for all efforts by the RSVN PRG, the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese, and called on all Non-Aligned countries to immediately grant it diplomatic recognition.

On international issues, the Joint Communiqués expressed admiration for the Cambodian people's heroic fight to free their Fatherland from US aggression, and reiterated full support for the 5-point Proclamation of Samdeck Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Political Program of the National United Front of Cambodia. They urged an end to all US interference in the internal affairs of the Cambodian people.

The Joint Communiqués showed special satisfaction at the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos and its Protocol and hoped that both the Agreement and Protocol will be scrupulously implemented for the sake of national concord and the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, unified and prosperous Laos.

Regarding the Middle East, the Joint Communiqués renewed both parties' continued and unaltered support to the legitimate struggle of the Palestine and Arab peoples for recovering the territories now occupied by the Israeli aggressors who should immediately withdraw all their forces from there.

Dealing with the liberation movement in Africa, the Joint communiqués expressed resolute support to it and said that both parties would reserve all possible assistance — moral, political and material — to the African fighters for freedom against imperialism, colonialism and racism. The RSVN-Tanzania Joint Communiqué also declared solidarity with the Zambian people's reaction against threats by the racist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa. The same communiqué voiced the strong feeling of the RSVN and the U.R. of Tanzania against the putsch and murder of President S. Allende in Chile.

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho took advantage of his Tanzania and Uganda visits to convey the RSVN PRG Delegation and all the South Vietnamese people's sincere thanks to the host governments and peoples for their valuable support to South Viet Nam's patriotic resistance to US aggression, and for their warm welcome accorded to himself and to the RSVN PRG delegation.

He also displayed deep admiration for the Tanzanian and Ugandian peoples' fight against imperialism and colonialism and full support for their endeavours to safeguard national independence and build their economic sovereignty.

On Oct 2, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and the RSVN PRG delegation left Kampala airport for South Viet Nam, winding up their long tour of Non-Aligned countries.

Villagers of Kabalega (Uganda) welcoming the PRG delegation as it passed by

Hurrah, Egypt and Syria!

THE Middle East war has flared up again, something not wished for, but expected, by everybody.

Fierce fighting has been on since October 6, along the cease-fire line drawn after the 6-day war, especially in the Suez Canal zone, in Egypt's Zafra area and in Syria's Golan Plateau? Due punishment was meted out to the Israeli aggressors by the Egyptian and Syrian troops and Palestinian guerillas who followed up their gains by liberating part of their territories up to now occupied by the enemy.

The first Arab successes are encouraging indeed: the Egyptian troops breaking through the Israeli defence line East of Suez Canal penetrated deep into the Sinai peninsula and liberated four areas, including Tawfik, Al Chad, East Ismailia and the whole sector South of Fort Fouad. In the battle to free Cantara city, they engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the enemy, forcing him finally to surrender. On the Golan front, Syrian troops freed large areas in the centre of the Plateau and drove forward. Combining action with the regulars of Egypt and Syria, Palestinian guerillas launched repeated attacks against the rear of the Israeli Army, inflicting severe losses on it. An October 9 communiqué announced that Egyptian and Syrian troops had destroyed 102 adverse aircraft and more than 150 tanks and captured a big haul of war matériel and equipment, including tanks, and a large number of war prisoners, including the Commander of an armoured brigade.

Big forces were mustered by the Israeli rulers in an effort to push back the Arab troops. No means was spared by them to sow death and confusion among adverse ranks. Napalm bombs were dropped on the Syrian border, the Damascus diplomatic district was bombed and many members of foreign embassies were killed or wounded. In one hour on October 7, the tonnage of bombs used on the Suez Canal front was bigger than that used in the whole 1967 war. Nevertheless, the situation kept worsening for the Israelis. Foreign Minister A Eban admitted that they had sustained "severe losses," whereas Herzog, the former chief of Israel's intelligence service, recognized that his country was confronted with "a difficult situation" and a "war that might be prolonged." Commenting on the war situation, *AFP* correspondent in Cairo wrote on October 9:

"For the first time in 26 years, hostilities seem to have taken a good turn for the Arabs, and diplomats here predict that they will proceed from one victory to another."

In the present war, just as in the three previous ones in the Middle East, the offender and aggressor is the Tel Aviv reactionary rulers. But their deep root — and the root of the continuous instability of this region — lies in US intervention and exploitation vis-à-vis the Arab countries. This is well-known to everyone. Washington, however, pretended to be surprised by the outbreak of hostilities and tried to create the impression that it was deeply "concerned" over the turn of events affecting peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile the truth has been revealed by a number of facts: orders had been given to GIs in Heideberg, West Germany, to stand by for "assignments" in the Middle East; a task force of the US 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea left Athens, Greece, for the Suez Canal; the aircraft-carrier "Independence" and three escorting cruisers were also on the move... Mention should be made of the 500 million dollars allotment for arms purchase by the US to Israel and the US supply of more than 100 modern aircraft to the latter. It was further disclosed by *UPI* on October 8 that following a meeting on Oct. 7 between Nixon and Kissinger, "there were enough signs to show that the United States was seeking peace on the basis of a forced Egyptian withdrawal to the 1967 cease fire line..." In such conditions, how can US imperialism — the hidden, but most dangerous, enemy of the Arabs — escape its responsibility for the crimes perpetrated on the Arab nations by those it had been fostering?

The whole mankind is behind the Egyptian and Syrian peoples' legitimate defence and sovereignty. Conscious that this is a common fight to all Arab peoples, the Heads of State and Government of Arab countries, immediately after the beginning of the war, declared full support to Egypt, Syria and Palestine, and promised to devote all the potential of their own countries, including armed forces, to the triumph of this sacred fight. The socialist countries, many countries of the Third World and international organizations issued statements in favour of the Egyptian, Syrian and Palestine peoples.

For its part, the RSVN PRG made clear its position in an Oct. 9, 1973 statement: "As a comrade-in-arms facing a common enemy and as a member of the Non-Aligned Family, the RSVN PRG has been following with special concern the serious situation in the Middle East. It declares unreserved support for the legitimate struggle of the Egyptian, Syrian, Palestinian and other Arab peoples. Together with the whole progressive mankind, the South Vietnamese people and the RSVN PRG strongly condemn the new, utterly criminal acts of war committed by the Israeli aggressors, and demand that they put an immediate end to their aggression, withdraw unconditionally all their troops from the Arab territories they have illegally occupied, and respect the legitimate national rights of Palestine people. The South Vietnamese people and the RSVN PRG vigorously castigate the US imperialists' intervention and incitement in the Middle East and urge that all US support and assistance to the Israeli aggressors be stopped."

In greeting the initial but substantial successes of the Egyptian and Syrian peoples as their own, the South Vietnamese people are confident that with their courage shown in the recent battles, and with their firm resolve to fight for independence and sovereignty, the Egyptian, Syrian and Palestine armed forces and peoples, closely united with the other Arab peoples — a factor of invincibility that should be preserved and strengthened — will finally bring to fruition their liberation drive, no matter how brutal the Israeli aggressors, how perfidious the US imperialists, and how complicated the situation, may be.

NHU NAM

The Third World *in effervescence*

THAILAND

The Thai patriotic armed forces now completely controlled 32 of the 37 villages in Oumphang district, Tak province (North of Thailand).

GUINEA (Bissau)

From July 23 to 27, the patriotic forces intercepted Portuguese colonial troops in filtrating into the liberated areas of Tehur and Belem, launched an operation against Catio, and ambushed the enemy near Cabotchamque on the Catio front, wiping out 65 adverse troops, destroying a depot, blowing up 2 trucks and capturing a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Between August 2 and 14, they ambushed and intercepted Portuguese troops on the fronts of Nhacras-Mores, Bafata-Cobu etc., levelling many posts and barracks, putting out of combat a great number of enemy and seizing a large number of weapons and war materials.

In the area of Balana on August 10, liberation fighters shot down a jet plane, the 19th aircraft of the Portuguese colonial troops downed since March this year.

MOZAMBIQUE

During the second quarter of this year, the Mozambique liberation armed forces staged repeated attacks on Spanish troops in Tete province. They knocked out of action 200 enemy, grounded an aircraft, blew up a bridge, sank 5 boats on the Zambezi river, and wrecked 21 military vehicles.

Last month, the patriotic forces wiped out 400 Spanish colonialists, downed 4 jet planes and destroyed 10 military vehicles. They also attacked an enemy concentration camp in Canxixe region, killing 18 soldiers and capturing some rifles and ammunition. Meanwhile, most of the Munica and Sofalapoc provinces has come under the control of the liberation forces.

MEXICO

The Mexican navy hailed on August 25 two American trawlers which had intruded into Mexico's territorial waters.

PERU

The Peru Government declared on August 29 its confiscation of the property of the American Copper Company of Cerro de Pasco worth 157 million dollars. The firm had been active for 70 years. In 1970, the Peru Government cancelled its exploitation right.

ARGENTINA

At a meeting on August 17, the youth organizations of 5 political parties issued a communiqué saying: "Latin America, including Argentina, is advancing on the road to national liberation. The majority of the people have started the march and will not stop until the last vestiges of imperialist domination on their fatherland are swept away."

SYRIA

On September 3, the Syrian Air Force shot down 5 of the 64 Israeli fighter planes violating the air space over Northern Syria.

It was one of the biggest air battles since the Israeli aggression in 1967 against the Arab peoples.

PANAMA

The People's Party of Panama made public on August 20 a communiqué denouncing the US Embassy in Panama and the CIA for a subversive plan against the progressive government headed by General Omar Torrijos.

The communiqué said among other things: The reactionaries have set limited and fixed objectives for each period so as to weaken the government, alienate it from the people, and discredit it, thereby gradually creating favourable conditions to deal a mortal blow at the patriotic government of General Omar Torrijos.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION